

DROUGHT BLIGHTED LAND

Great Suffering Among the Residents of Desolate Nebraska.

MOTHER AND CHILDREN STARVE

The Sufferers Unable to Obtain Employment and Merchants Cannot Longer Supply the Necessities of Life Without Compensation--A Desert.

By the United Press.

Niobrara, Neb., Dec. 23.—The suffering among the inhabitants of the drought blighted parts of Nebraska, including three-fourths of the residents of five counties, is becoming more intense by starvation. Three years ago the farmers of these drought-blighted counties raised a very light crop, and the past two years the crops have been almost total failures. Many families have not enough provisions in their homes for one week's sustenance and no money to purchase the necessities of life.

Many merchants here feel that they have added the poor farmers to the extent of their ability, and are unable to do any more for them or sell them goods on credit. The sufferers cannot obtain employment and, unless they receive aid very soon, it is the general opinion that many will starve to death, and should the weather turn very cold, many more deaths, as it is a fact that many are barefooted and have scarcely sufficient clothing to cover their nakedness.

A mother and her two children were found dead in their little cabin this week. It is supposed the mother had been confined to her bed by sickness and she and her two little ones starved to death. The stomachs of the children were opened and not a trace of food could be detected.

There is not a stream of water in Perkins county nor a living spring. The roads and much of the prairie resemble asphalt, so hard packed and smooth are they. Well diggers say that the soil is a solid mass 150 feet down, so hard that picks have to be used to loosen it. Over this smooth surface the never ceasing winds blow from every direction. They are filled with minute sand particles and are almost resistless.

They Eat Prairie Dogs.

Grant, Neb., Dec. 23.—President Nason, of the Nebraska State Relief commission, has been forwarding carefully prepared reports of the number of destitute families in the different counties in this state where there was a crop failure. The list is from twenty-one counties and contains the names of 2,599 families, and it will require all the assistance that can be procured to keep the people in the most want of necessities during the cold months. In many instances people in the districts remote from railroad facilities are said to be eating prairie dogs.

A newspaper man made a trip the early part of the week through the most destitute parts of this county. He found deserted sod huts and frame houses were seen and there were signs here and there that some habitations had been torn down and removed with the other goods of the owners when they left it. In some cases farm implements were seen in the fields, and at a distance substantial granaries stood just as their owners had left them.

The people of the drought-cursed sections hope to have the legislature pass measures of relief the first day the body convenes. This may be done, but all organized relief measures are absolutely necessary to prevent many deaths from starvation.

TERRELL IS SILENT.

American Minister to Turkey Does Not Communicate Officially.

By the United Press.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Minister Terrell has not yet officially informed the state department of the acquisition of the Turkish government in the proposition that the United States consul of Sivas, Milo A. Jewett should enter upon an independent investigation of the alleged Armenian outrages. The Turkish legation here in regard to recently reported outrages has received the following official telegram: "It has also been published that the archbishop of Marash was imprisoned at Aleppo, usually called Aleppo, the bishop of Hadjiz, the archbishop of Zeltaoun and Father Garask, of Marash, were condemned to death; that Sister Elizabeth and twenty-five other prisoners were under arrest and that fifteen leading men of Aleppo were sent to prison. All these assertions are without the least foundation in fact. Nor is it true that the church in Beylan was closed, as it has also been falsely said."

CHARGES DISMISSED.

Governor Flower Exonerates District Attorney Kelly.

By the United Press.

New York, Dec. 23.—Governor Flower has dismissed the charges of neglect of duty preferred against District Attorney Kelly, of New Orleans, which have been pending since May last. The governor's action is due to the recommendation of Commissioner Henderson, who was appointed to hear the charges. The charges against Mr. Kelly were the outcome of the agitation which succeeded the murder of an election inspector named Ross by "Bat" Shea, and the gross election frauds which it was alleged were committed at that time.

IT RAINED BULLETS.

Four People Hit in an Attempt to Arrest a Negro.

By the United Press.

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 23.—In attempting to arrest a negro murderer named Jake Williams last night, Policeman Joe Murray was probably fatally wounded; another man was shot in the eye, but will recover. Policeman Wrenn was shot in the leg, and John Davis, a bystander was killed. The negro is in jail.

FRANCE HAS HER HANDS FULL

Disorders Among the Natives of Madagascar Increasing.

By the United Press.

Marcelles, Dec. 23.—Advice received here by mail from Madagascar report the arrival at that island of Colonel Shervinton, who, it is said, will take

CAPTURE OF THE ROBBERS

A Participant in the Erie Outrage Caught at Morrisiana.

TORTURED AN OLD COUPLE

The Leader of the Gang That Robbed the Slocums Is Betrayed by His Infatuation for a Young Girl--He Implicates Others.

SANTA CLAUS ON FIRE.

White Whiskered Sunday School Ideal in a Blaze.

New Brunswick, N. J., Dec. 23.—A Christmas festival was held at the first Presbyterian Church Saturday night. John Erickson acted the part of Santa Claus and distributed the gifts. As he was disguised in the usual manner, he wore a wig and his coat was dotted with bits of cotton to represent snow.

As he was reaching to the top of the tree for one of the gifts, a lighted paper touched the cotton and like a flash the coat was in a blaze. Mr. Erickson retained his presence of mind and hastily took off the wig and the other robes. Several parties of Hovas have been cut to pieces.

TO FIGHT FOR HUMAN LIL.

A Chronic Royalist Conspiracy Nipped in the Bud by Police at Honolulu.

By the United Press.

Honolulu, Dec. 14, via San Francisco, Dec. 22.—A chronic royalist conspiracy has long been known to the police. A number of rifles secreted in different houses of the city have been found, and the arrest of several of the conspirators has followed. Four persons were arrested on the evening of Dec. 8. John E. Bush was the first man arrested. He is the editor of Kaleo, issued both in English and Hawaiian, and full of virulent abuse of the government. Bush is as prominent as any man of that party. Crick came next, a chemist, who was said to have made dynamite bombs in 1893, but was discharged for lack of evidence. He has been writing for Bush's Hawaiian edition of Kaleo. Crick is in very low spirits.

The next arrest was that of Joseph Nawahi, a prominent native lawyer. Fred Weed was the fourth, a young half-white clerk in a bookstore. Shortly after Bush's arrest his house was searched, and seven rifles were found behind a false partition.

At a house on Liliha street four more were found hidden under the floor of an out-house. Several more have been found, one or two in a house. A number of persons have been arrested on suspicion, but they have been released on bail. Ball is refused to the first four arrested. It is understood that the evidence of their treason is very strong.

It is understood that an immediate uprising was to have been attempted, but that the marshal thought best to nip the business in the bud. There was not the least danger of the insane attempt succeeding, but it was desirable to prevent any bloodshed. The last arrest of a conspirator was that of Joseph Tinker yesterday. Two guns and a quantity of ammunition were found concealed under his roof. Tinker is an Englishman, a butcher, and has a young white family. No pure natives seem to be in the conspiracy except Nawahi, who has always been an ardent partisan of royalty. Those concerned are chiefly British subjects. The natives are showing very little interest in the matter. The government of President Dole is extremely considerate of the interests and sentiments of the native party, and they are growing very contented with it.

GOVERNOR HOGG AFTER HIM.

Standard Oil Magnate Flagler Is Wanted in Texas.

By the United Press.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 23.—A special to the Times Union from Tallahassee, Fla., says: "Governor Mitchell has received a requisition from Governor Hogg of Texas, for Henry M. Flagler, of St. Augustine, the railway, hotel and Standard Oil magnate. Flagler and other Standard Oil magnates have been indicted in the Texas courts for violating the anti-trust laws of that state, and Governor Hogg is determined to bring the indicted millionaires to trial. Some time ago he forwarded requisitions to Governor Flower, of New York, for John D. Rockefeller and others, who reside in that state, but Governor Flower refused to honor the requisitions. Now he turns his attention to Florida. It is said that Governor Mitchell will honor the requisition."

CHURCH MEMBERS AGGRIEVED.

Liability to Be Arrested for Neglecting Houses for Immoral Purposes.

By the United Press.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 23.—There is consternation among the keepers and inmates of disorderly houses in this city owing to the action of the police in making lists of the places for submission to the grand jury. Since the beginning of the Parkhurst crusade in New York, several hundred tawdry women have come to Trenton, and their behavior on the streets and in the public resorts has given rise to many indignant complaints. Now they are fleeing the houses they live in, but not the city, and street walking is largely on the increase.

The lists being made by the police will also give the names of the owners of the property leased for unlawful purposes. There are numerous church members among these owners and their indictment is quite certain.

KILLED BY AN OFFICER.

Policeman Gallagher Shoots Thomas Brown of Pittston.

By the United Press.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Dec. 23.—Thomas Brown, of Pittston, was fatally shot through the lungs at midnight tonight by Policeman Gallagher while the latter attempted to arrest him for creating a disturbance on Canal street. He had most chivalrously offered officer into insubordination. James Burke, also of Pittston, was hit over the head by the policeman and was badly cut about the head. Both were sent to the hospital.

KILLED IN A HUT.

Mysterious Death of George Whittington.

By the United Press.

Camden, N. J., Dec. 23.—George Whittington, a farm hand, living at Cuthbert station just beyond the limits of this city, was shot and killed this morning in a hut in which there were two other negroes and two women. The people in the hut say that they were awakened from their sleep this morning by hearing a shot and found Whittington to be shot and bleeding to

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New York, Dec. 23.—John O'Connell, 40 years old, an ex-convict, was arraigned before Justice Welde, in the Morrisiana police court, this morning and held to await the arrival of requisition papers from the governor of Pennsylvania.

O'Connell is charged with being one of the men who, on Saturday, Dec. 15, assaulted David Slocum and his wife, both of whom are past 70 years of age, on their farm in Washington township, Erie county, Pa. The robbery was a most brutal affair, and netted the perpetrators between \$3,000 and \$10,000, which the old couple had stored away in a bureau and had treasure box. It consisted for the most part of gold and silver, the few bills in the hoard being musty with age. To this fact and the infatuation of one of the men for a young girl can be traced the arrest of at least two of the alleged perpetrators of the outrage.

All of the men except one, who engaged in the robbery were masked. Of this one the old couple were able to give a good description, because he was most active during the whole proceeding, and was the one who held the lamp to their feet to make them tell the hiding place of their treasure. From the description furnished the man was traced to Linghamton, N. Y., where they learned his name was Casey. Before the arrival of the detectives, he had eloped with a 15-year-old girl, but left a trail of \$1, \$10 and \$20 gold pieces, which led the detectives to Patterson, N. J., where he was arrested Saturday last.

When cornered he confessed and implicated among others O'Connell. Detective Sullivan, of Erie county, who aided in the arrest of O'Connell, said that the robbery of the Slocums was planned by a neighbor, who was intimate terms with the couple and knew of their hoard, but not its hiding place. The name of the neighbor he would not divulge, because he has not yet been arrested.

Erie, Pa., Dec. 23.—The band of burglars who broke into David Slocum's house in Washington township a week ago, and after mistreating the old man and his wife, robbed them of over \$10,000, have all been arrested. Frank Ayres, the leader, and his brother-in-law, Ralph Van Auler, are in jail here; Jeremiah Casey is in custody in Patterson, N. J., and other members of the gang are under arrest in New York state. Anderson met Casey in the Meadville Pa. jail and the plot was planned there. He was arrested before Monday. Anderson made a determined resistance. He was a leader in the Anderson-Sweet Vendetta, a few years ago.

HE DOCTORED THE BOOKS.

A Trusted Cashier Accused of Having Made Way with \$16,000.

By the United Press.

New York, Dec. 23.—Harold C. Butt, 26 years of age, who for more than two years past has been the cashier for Hammerslough Bros., clothiers, was a prisoner in the Tombs today, charged with embezzling \$16,000 of that firm's money. Butt has never been suspected of wrong doing and has been implicitly trusted by the firm. Butt has been systematically altering the books for some time past. Butt refused to say anything and pleaded not guilty when arraigned before Justice McLean in the Tombs today. He was held in default of \$5,000 bail for examination.

Butt has confessed his crime, saying that he spent all the money on horses and in bucket shop operations. Butt's family and friends have expressed a desire to make restitution. It was said tonight that Mr. Hammerslough had no disposition to press a charge against Butt and that, in all probability a settlement would be effected.

AGED MURDERER CONVICTED.

By the United Press.

Cleaveland, Pa., Dec. 23.—Swan Melgren was found guilty in the second degree this morning. The murder was committed at Grassfield, near Peale, Clearfield county, last spring, when a Swede named Erickson was shot and instantly killed. The murderer is 25 years old.

EVANS WINS BY 645 VOTES.

By the United Press.

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 23.—John Ruhn, Jr., John T. Lattin and L. L. Terry, the special committee which has been going over the tally sheets, poll lists, etc., on file in the secretary of state's office, have figured out the Evans wins by 645. The Democratic board gave him 745.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL SICK.

By the United Press.

Paris, Dec. 23.—Lord Randolph Churchill, who has just returned sick from his trip around the world, was worse today and showed symptoms of locomotor ataxia. Nevertheless, he started for London this evening.

IS DREYFUS DEAD?

By the United Press.

Paris, Dec. 23.—There is an unconfirmed report that Captain Dreyfus, who was sentenced yesterday for treason has killed himself in his cell.

MAINLY CONGRESSIONAL.

Director Walcott, of the geological survey, recommends a general distribution of government topographic maps.

The torpedo boat Cushing has reached Washington, and the Castine was today sent to Castine, Me., to get a punch bowl.

No consideration will be given to legislation to overcome the disagreements of this country with Germany, France and Austria on the sugar duty.

Congressman Hines has introduced a bill to change the duty on jute and hemp carpets to 5 cents a square yard rather than 20 per cent. ad valorem.

A contract to make the disappearing gun carriages for French seacoast defense rifles has been awarded the Kilby Manufacturing company, of Cleveland, O.

A medal of honor has been awarded in the name of congress to David F. Day, private, Company D, Fifty-seventh Ohio volunteers, for distinguished bravery at Vicksburg May 22, 1863.

NEW JERSEY'S PROTEST

Mail from the Mosquito Country Against Boarding-House Butter.

PROTECTION FOR THE DAIRY

Laws of the State Against Oleomargarine Will Be Enforced—Eastern Selling Agents of the Hog-Fat Preparation Are to Be Prosecuted.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 23.—The decision recently rendered by the United States supreme court affirming the constitutionality of the Massachusetts law regarding the sale of oleomargarine in which it is held that "substitutes designed to look like butter are deceptive and fraudulent and the states may exclude them without encroaching on the right of congress to regulate interstate commerce" has thrown consternation into the ranks of the dealers in oleomargarine in the states which by statute prohibit the manufacture and sale of this counterfeit dairy product.

They are now practically barred from continuing a business which has of late years grown to vast proportions and in which large sums of money are invested. By the decision alluded to the large dealers in this article are driven out of business in the prohibitory states and owing to the fact that the New Jersey law under certain conditions does not prohibit the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine they have selected this state as a basis of operations and have recently been dumping large quantities of the stuff in Jersey City and other localities. In so doing, however, they have not been particular enough to observe in all respects the law of this state regarding the branding of packages and this and other violations of the law are now receiving the attention of State Dairy Commissioner George W. McGuire, who proposes that the laws of this state for the protection of dairy products shall be strictly enforced and with that object in view, he has given special instructions to his deputies with the result that several violations of the law have already been detected and complaints ordered.

Chief among which was against Amon & Person, of Jersey City, who are the eastern selling agents of most of the large western manufacturers, and handle large quantities of oleomargarine.

THE ENGINE RAN AWAY.

Thirty-Foot Fly Wheel Bursts—One End of the House Demolished.

By the United Press.

Pittsburg, Dec. 23.—The immense engine furnishing the hot blast for furnaces H and I of the Carnegie plant at Braddock was completely wrecked this afternoon. The loss is about \$15,000, and the furnace will be closed down for an indefinite period, throwing 300 men out of employment. The output of the furnaces was from 200 to 300 tons per day.

A heavy ball twenty feet above the floor became detached and fell on one of the pipes. The engine "ran away" and was broken up by the violence of its own action. The thirty-foot fly wheel flew apart and pieces weighing about two tons fell a block away. One end of the engine house was demolished. The accident was followed by a small explosion in the boilers which supplied the engine. The engineer was standing by the steam chest and escaped unharmed. The engine was the largest of the kind ever built. It was set up four years ago.

FIRE AT WATSON TOWN.

Several Dwellings and Opera House Go Up in Smoke.

By the United Press.

Williamsport, Pa., Dec. 23.—This morning a disastrous fire visited the central portion of Watson town, and before it was under control the opera house and adjacent buildings were in ashes.

The buildings destroyed are the livery and sale stable of Peter Faust, the opera house, Faust's store, several frame dwellings, a barn and stables and a lot of outbuildings, six horses, a large number of wagons, carriages, etc., belonging to Peter Faust. Loss, \$20,000; insurance, \$20,000.

DISASTROUS FIRE.

Ten Million Feet of High Grade Pine in a Blaze.

By the United Press.

Tonawanda, N. Y., Dec. 23.—A fire which proved to be one of the most disastrous in the history of Tonawanda started at 4 o'clock this morning at the lumber yards of A. Weston & Son, on Main street. Between 8,000,000 and 10,000,000 feet of high grade pine lumber were destroyed, the estimated value of which is placed at \$175,000, and which is covered by the 80 per cent. insurance clause.

BASE BALL IN THE SOUTH.

Baneroff's Cincinnati All-Star Aggregation at New Orleans.

By the United Press.

New Orleans, Dec. 23.—Baneroff's Cincinnati "All Star Aggregation" played the first of a series of five games here today against a local club of mixed professionals and amateurs.

KILLED BY THE MOB.

Wholesale Slaughter of Negroes in Georgia.

By the United Press.

Quitman, Ga., Dec. 23.—The posse in pursuit of Waverly Pike, the murderer of Joe Isom, last night and early this morning, killed a number of negroes. Reliable information is that the total number of victims is seven. The negroes killed were supposed to know Pike's whereabouts. If these negroes knew, they refused to tell and the penalty of not telling was death. The mob has Pike's wife and may succeed in making her tell. This wholesale killing is terrible, but the people of that community assert that they have had much provocation.

Hardly three weeks ago, Tip Maullin, a respectable white man, was brutally murdered on the public road in the same neighborhood by two negroes.

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